



EPA Announces 10 New Brownfields Job Training and Development Demonstration Pilots – [Gary, Indiana Receives Pilot](#)

EPA Administrator Whitman announced December 21st, that EPA is funding 10 new Job Training Demonstration Pilot Projects. The skills learned will make environmental awareness and participation a critical component of life for families living near brownfields in D.C. and all across the country. I am also pleased that the Congress has taken steps to promote brownfields cleanup as well. Both the House of Representatives and then the Senate this week passed legislation that meets the President's commitment to brownfields. This legislation - similar to these job training programs - provides the tools necessary to make brownfields redevelopment fast and effective."

Grant recipients include the District of Columbia and the states of Ohio, Rhode Island, Montana, Iowa, [Indiana](#), Delaware, South Carolina, Washington and New York, brownfields job training program efforts are now active in 23 states and Puerto Rico. The job training grants, totaling \$200,000 each, are used to teach environmental-cleanup job skills to individuals living in low-income areas in the vicinity of brownfields sites. The majority of participants who successfully complete the training program go on to pursue careers with environmental firms and organizations. Since the program started in 1998, 566 trainees, the majority of whom are minority, have been hired at an average hourly entry-level wage of \$12.12.

According to an independent study conducted by the Council for Urban Economic Development, the revitalization of brownfields has created over 22,000 permanent jobs and leveraged \$2.48 in private investment for every dollar spent by federal, state or local governments. A recent study by George Washington University found that for every acre of brownfields redeveloped, 4.5 acres of undeveloped land is saved.

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